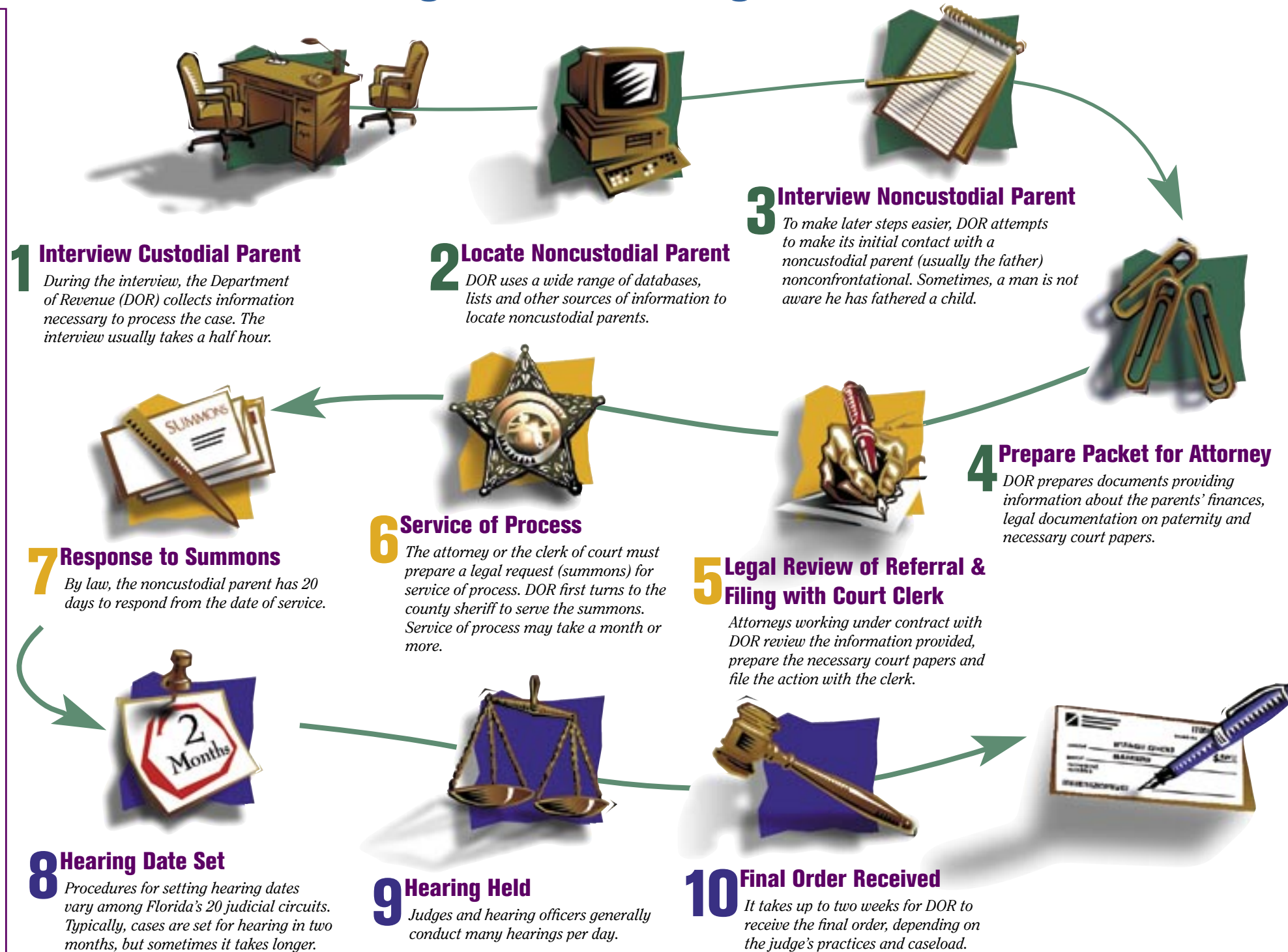


# ■ Child Support Enforcement Program: Providing for Florida's Children

# CSE

## Establishing Orders

Overseeing child support cases for 901,000 children can be challenging. Before the first dime can be collected, an order for support must be in place. The 10 steps at right must be completed to establish a child support order through the courts. Yet fewer than 10,000 of the nearly 250,000 new cases DOR receives each year have these vital orders in effect when the cases come in. DOR must work with several partners to make the establishment process effective: custodial parents, noncustodial parents, attorneys, court clerks, sheriff's departments and the judiciary. DOR is working with its partners to make the establishment process faster and more effective.



## For Your Information

### Children Need Dads

Making child support enforceable actually begins at birth. A critical element of establishing child support is establishing paternity. In the last three years, DOR has worked with Florida hospitals and birthing centers, and the Department of Health to arrange for more than 139,806 unwed fathers to sign affidavits voluntarily affirming paternity of newborns. If these children ever need child support, paternity already will have been established.

### Finding Noncustodial Parents

DOR uses these tools to locate noncustodial parents:

- Driver license lists
- Reports filed by employers
- Utility company records
- Florida Medicaid and food stamp recipient lists
- Loan information on file with credit agencies
- Internet-based telephone and city directories
- Courthouse records
- Data from financial institutions.

### Proof Positive of Paternity

If the alleged father argues he is not the child's parent, DOR conducts genetic testing to be sure. DOR is one of the largest users of genetic testing in Florida, testing more than 41,000 individuals per year. Genetic tests generally are accepted as proof of paternity in any U.S. court.

#### LEGEND

- Within DOR's control
- Outside DOR's control
- Required by Law

### Collection from Noncustodial Parent

- Have driver licenses suspended.
- Have passports suspended (if unpaid obligation is \$5,000 or more).
- Ask a judge to issue an arrest writ if the noncustodial parent fails to appear in court (writs

To require parents to pay what they owe, DOR can:

- are on file in police computers; if someone named in a writ is stopped by a law enforcement officer, he or she is arrested).
- Ask state or federal prosecutors to file criminal charges in certain circumstances.

### Collection from Employer

The most effective enforcement tool is an income deduction order. It requires an employer to deduct child support payments from an employee's paycheck and send them to a central depository. Roughly half of all paying cases have such orders.

### Collection through Liens on Assets

If a parent won't pay, DOR can:

- Seize IRS tax refunds.
- Report the parent to credit reporting agencies.
- Put liens on property.
- Freeze financial accounts



For more information:  
**Department of Revenue**  
[www.myflorida.com/dor](http://www.myflorida.com/dor)  
**1-800-622-5437**